

authentication data embedding portion 14 sets, similarly to the key data embedding portion 13, q to a nearest even or odd integer depending on the bit value of authentication data corresponding to the transform coefficient (step S704). Here, q is assumed to be a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by quantization step size Q.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 8 of page 32 as follows:**

The key data determination portion 22 is not an indispensable component to the tamper detecting apparatus 2. In the present invention, however, such determination for verifying the key data improves reliability of the tamper detecting apparatus 2 in detection of tamper ~~a tampering~~ with the digital image. The key data determination portion 22 is therefore preferably used in view of making the tamper detecting apparatus 2 more preferable in practical use.

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A tamper-detection-information embedding apparatus for embedding predetermined information for tamper detection in a digital image signal, said apparatus comprising:

a band division means for dividing said portion operable to divide the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

an authentication data generation means for generating portion operable to generate a pseudo-random number series by using predetermined key data, and generating to generate authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

a key data embedding means for embedding said portion operable to embed the key data in transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

an authentication data embedding means for embedding said portion operable to embed the authentication data in transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA

(hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

a band synthesis means for reconstructing portion operable to reconstruct the digital image signal in which the information has been embedded by using said the MRA and said the MRR to which data embedding processing is subjected.

2. (Currently amended) The tamper-detection-information embedding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) and a set value m (m is an integer not more than T) are predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size, and

wherein said authentication data embedding means portion embeds said the authentication data in each transform coefficient of said the MRR by comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T, and if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, setting the transform coefficient to said the set value +m or -m depending on a bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded, and if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, setting the transform coefficient to an even or odd integer nearest to said the value q depending on the bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded, embedded, and

wherein T is a positive integer and m is an integer not more than T.

3. (Currently amended) A tamper detecting apparatus for detecting tamper with a digital image based on tamper-detection-information embedded by a specific apparatus in a digital image signal, said tamper detecting apparatus comprising:

a band division means for dividing said portion operable to divide the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

a key data extraction means for extracting portion operable to extract key data embedded by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

an authentication data generation means for generating portion operable to generate a pseudo-random number series by using said the key data, and generating to generate authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

an embedded information extraction means for extracting portion operable to extract embedded information embedded based on said the key data by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA (hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

a tamper determination means for comparing said portion operable to compare the embedded information with said the authentication data for verification and determining to determine whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

4. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said tamper determination means portion comprises:

a block division means for dividing portion operable to divide the digital image into a plurality of unit blocks each composed of a predetermined number of pixels;

a regional embedded information read means for reading portion operable to read, for each of said the unit blocks, embedded information embedded in the transform coefficients of said the MRR that represents the same spatial region as the unit block, serially from all of said the embedded information extracted by said embedded information extraction means portion;

a regional authentication data read means for reading portion operable to read, for each of said the unit blocks, authentication data corresponding in position to said the embedded information serially read by said regional embedded information read means portion, serially from all of said the authentication data generated by said authentication data generation means portion; and

a block-tamper determination means for comparing said portion operable to compare the embedded information serially read with said the authentication data serially read and determining to determine, for each of said the unit blocks, whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

5. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size and then rounding off the result, and

wherein said embedded information extraction ~~means~~ portion extracts said the embedded information from each transform coefficient of said the MRR by comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T, and if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination, and if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, determining whether said the value q is even or odd and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the ~~determination~~ determination, and

wherein T is a positive integer.

6. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size and then rounding off the result, and

wherein said embedded information extraction ~~means~~ portion extracts said the embedded information from each transform coefficient of said the MRR by comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T, and if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination, and if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, determining whether said the value q is even or odd and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the ~~determination~~ determination, and

wherein T is a positive integer.

7. (Currently amended) A tamper-detection-information embedding method of embedding predetermined information for tamper detection in a digital image signal, said method comprising:

a step of dividing said the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

a step of generating a pseudo-random number series by using predetermined key data, and generating authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

a step of embedding said the key data in transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

a step of embedding said the authentication data in transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA (hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

a step of reconstructing the digital image signal in which the information has been embedded by using said the MRA and said the MRR to which data embedding processing is subjected.

8. (Currently amended) The tamper-detection-information embedding method according to claim 7, wherein

wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) and a set value m (m is an integer not more than T) are predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size, and

said step of wherein embedding authentication data includes: includes

a step of comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T;

a step of setting the transform coefficient to said the set value +m or -m depending on a bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded if the absolute value is less than said the set value T; T, and

a step of setting the transform coefficient to an even or odd integer nearest to said the value q depending on the bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T; T, and

wherein T is a positive integer and m is an integer not more than T.

9. (Currently amended) A tamper detecting method of detecting tamper with a digital image based on tamper-detection-information embedded by a specific apparatus in a digital image signal, said method comprising:

a step of dividing said the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

a step of extracting key data embedded by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

. . . a step of generating a pseudo-random number series by using said the key data, and generating authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

a step of extracting embedded information embedded based on said the key data by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA (hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

a step of comparing said the embedded information with said the authentication data for verification and determining whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

10. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting method according to claim 9, wherein further comprising

said step of determining tamper comprises:

a step of dividing the digital image into a plurality of unit blocks each composed of a predetermined number of pixels;

a step of reading, for each of said the unit blocks, embedded information embedded in the transform coefficients of said the MRR that represents the same spatial region as the unit block, serially from all of said the embedded information;

a step of reading, for each of said the unit blocks, authentication data corresponding in position to said the embedded information serially read, serially from all of said the authentication data; and

a step of comparing a series of said the embedded information serially read with a series of said the authentication data serially read and determining, for each of said the unit blocks, whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

11. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting method according to claim 9, wherein  
wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size and then rounding off the result, and

wherein said step of extracting embedded information ~~includes~~: includes  
a step of comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T, T,

a step of determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the ~~determination~~, determination, and

a step of determining whether said the value q is even or odd if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the ~~determination~~, determination, and

wherein T is a positive integer.

12. (Currently amended) The tamper detecting method according to claim 10, wherein  
wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size and then rounding off the result, and

wherein said step of extracting embedded information ~~includes~~: includes  
a step of comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T, T,

a step of determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded

information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination; determination, and  
a step of determining whether said the value q is even or odd if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination; determination, and  
wherein T is a positive integer.

13. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a program having computer device readable instructions to be run on a computer device is recorded for carrying out a tamper-detection-information embedding method of embedding predetermined information for tamper detection in a digital image signal, the method comprising the steps of computer device readable instructions including instructions capable of instructing a computer device to perform the method comprising:

dividing said the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

generating a pseudo-random number series by using predetermined key data, and generating authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

embedding said the key data in transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

embedding said the authentication data in transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA (hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

reconstructing the digital image signal in which the information has been embedded by using said the MRA and said the MRR to which data embedding processing is subjected.

14. (Currently amended) The recording medium according to claim 13, wherein  
wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) and a set value m (m is an integer not more than T) are predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size, and  
wherein said step of embedding authentication data includes the steps of:  
comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T;

setting the transform coefficient to said the set value +m or -m depending on a bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded if the absolute value is less than said the set value T; T, and

setting the transform coefficient to an even or odd integer nearest to said the value q depending on the bit value of said the authentication data to be embedded if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T; T, and

wherein T is a positive integer and m is an integer not more than T.

15. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a program having computer device readable instructions to be run on a computer device is recorded for carrying out a tamper detecting method of detecting tamper with a digital image based on tamper-detection-information embedded by a specific apparatus in a digital image signal, the method comprising the steps of computer device readable instructions including instructions capable of instructing a computer device to perform the method comprising:

dividing said the digital image signal into a plurality of frequency bands;

extracting key data embedded by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of a lowest frequency band (hereinafter, referred to as MRA) among said the plurality of frequency bands;

generating a pseudo-random number series by using said the key data, and generating authentication data from the pseudo-random number series;

extracting embedded information embedded based on said the key data by said the specific apparatus from transform coefficients of the frequency bands exclusive of said the MRA (hereinafter, referred to as MRR) among said the plurality of frequency bands; and

comparing said the embedded information with said the authentication data for verification and determining whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

16. (Currently amended) The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein said step of determining tamper comprises the computer device readable instructions include instructions capable of instructing a computer device to perform the method further comprising:

dividing the digital image into a plurality of unit blocks each composed of a predetermined number of pixels;

reading, for each of said the unit blocks, embedded information embedded in the transform coefficients of said the MRR that represents the same spatial region as the unit block, serially from all of said the embedded information;

reading, for each of said the unit blocks, authentication data corresponding in position to said the embedded information serially read, serially from all of said the authentication data; and

comparing a series of said the embedded information serially read with a series of said the authentication data serially read and determining, for each of said the unit blocks, whether said the digital image has been tampered with.

17. (Currently amended) The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein  
wherein a set value T (T is a positive integer) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient is divided by a predetermined quantization step size and then rounding off the result, and

wherein said step of extracting embedded information includes the steps of:

comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value  $\pm T$ .

determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative if the absolute value is less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination: determination, and

determining whether said the value q is even or odd if the absolute value is not less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform coefficient based on the determination: determination, and

wherein T is a positive integer.

18. (Currently amended) The recording medium according to claim 16, wherein  
wherein a set value T (~~T is a positive integer~~) is predetermined and q is predetermined as a  
value obtained by dividing a transform coefficient by a predetermined quantization step size and then  
rounding off the result, and

wherein said step of extracting embedded information includes the steps of:

comparing an absolute value of said the transform coefficient with said the set value T;  
determining whether a value of the transform coefficient is positive or negative if the absolute  
value is less than said the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded  
in the transform coefficient based on the determination; determination, and

determining whether said the value q is even or odd if the absolute value is not less than said  
the set value T, and extracting a bit value of embedded information embedded in the transform  
coefficient based on the determination, determination, and

wherein T is a positive integer.